

**September 20, 2006:**

**Statement: Congressman Robert Wexler, Ranking Democrat  
Europe and Emerging Threats Subcommittee**

**Markup: H. Res. 989, Commending the United Kingdom for its efforts in the War  
on Terror**

Mr. Chairman, I want to associate myself with your poignant comments and join you in strong support of H. Res. 989 commending the United Kingdom for its efforts in the War on Terror.

I think it goes without saying that the UK has been America's staunchest ally in the war on terror and continues to play a critical role in Iraq and Afghanistan.

I especially want to point out Great Britain's critical role in Afghanistan as part of the NATO forces battling the Taliban and Al Qaeda terrorists. While many of our NATO allies have not stepped up to the plate to provide necessary resources and troops – London under the leadership of Tony Blair has always been ready to answer the call of NATO commanders and meet its commitments to the people of Afghanistan who are trying to rebuild to their nation -- free from the threat of the Taliban and Al Qaeda.

Unfortunately Britain's commitment to fight the war on terror and to play a leading role in Afghanistan and Iraq has come at a heavy cost. UK troops have experienced heavy casualties over the past month including the loss of 14 of its troops after a Royal Air Force aircraft crashed in southern Afghanistan earlier this month. This incident is the single biggest loss of British troops in either Iraq or Afghanistan. We would be remiss if we did not express my deepest sympathies to the families of these soldiers.

Once again, Mr. Chairman I join you in supporting this important resolution and urge all of my colleagues to support H. Res. 989.